

**Problem 1** (20%). Let  $X, Y$  be discrete random variables. The variance of a random variable  $X$  is defined as  $\text{Var}[X] := E[(X - E[X])^2]$ . Prove that

1.  $E[aX + bY] = a \cdot E[X] + b \cdot E[Y]$  for any constant  $a, b$ .
2. If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $E[X \cdot Y] = E[X] \cdot E[Y]$  and  $\text{Var}[X + Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$ .
3.  $\text{Var}[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$ . Hint: Use the fact that  $E[X \cdot E[X]] = E[X]^2$ .

$$1. E[X] = \sum_x x \cdot P[X=x], E[Y] = \sum_y y \cdot P[Y=y]$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[aX+bY] &= \sum_x \sum_y (ax+by) P[X=x, Y=y] \\ &= a \sum_x x P[X=x] + b \sum_y y P[Y=y] = aE[X] + bE[Y] \# \end{aligned}$$

$$2. E[XY] = \sum_x \sum_y (x \cdot y) P[X=x, Y=y]$$

$$(\text{Independence}) = \sum_x \sum_y (x \cdot y) P[X=x] P[Y=y]$$

$$= \sum_x x P[X=x] \sum_y y P[Y=y] = E[X] E[Y] \#$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X+Y] &= E[(X+Y - E[X+Y])^2] = E[(X - E[X] + Y - E[Y])^2] (\text{linearity of expectation}) \\ &= E[(X - E[X))^2] + E[(Y - E[Y))^2] + \cancel{2E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y))]} \end{aligned}$$

$$2E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y))] = 2E[XY - XE[Y] - YE[X] + E[X]E[Y]]$$

$$= 2E[XY] - 2E[X]E[Y] - 2E[Y]E[X] + 2E[X]E[Y]$$

$$(E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]) = 2(E[X]E[Y] - E[X]E[Y]) = 0 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}[X+Y] = E[(X - E[X))^2] + E[(Y - E[Y))^2] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] \#$$

$$3. \text{Var}[X] = E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[X^2 - 2XE[X] + E[X]^2] = E[X^2] - 2E[X]E[X] + E[X]^2 \\ = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \#$$

**Problem 2** (20%). Consider the slides #2. Prove that the graphs  $H_i$  defined in the proof of Theorem 3 are bicliques.

Let  $n = 2^m$  and consider the graph  $K_n$ .  $H_i$  partitions  $K_n$  into  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

where  $X = \{\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m) \mid u \in V(K_n), u_i = 0\}$ ,  $Y = \{\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m) \mid u \in V(K_n), u_i = 1\}$

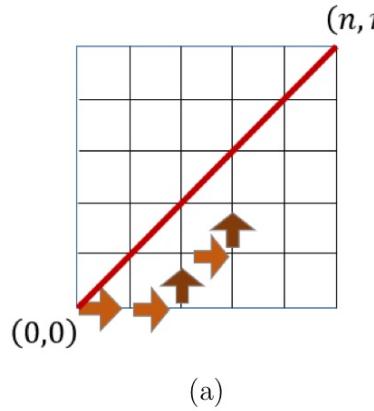
By definition of  $H_i$ ,  $(u, v) \in E(H_i) \forall u, v \in V(K_n) \wedge u_i \neq v_i$ ;

therefore,  $\forall u \in X, v \in Y$ , we have  $(u, v) \in E(H_i)$

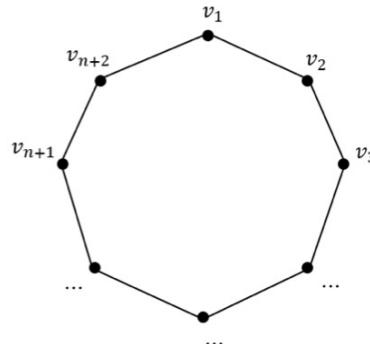
and  $\forall u, v \in X, (u, v) \notin E(H_i)$  and  $\forall u, v \in Y, (u, v) \notin E(H_i)$ ;

hence prove that  $H_i$  must be a biclique.

**Problem 3** (20%). For any integer  $n \geq 1$ , consider the grid points  $(r, c)$  with  $1 \leq r, c \leq n$ . Let  $C_n$  be the number of possible paths from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(n, n)$  that use only  $\rightarrow$  and  $\uparrow$  and that never cross the diagonal  $r = c$ . See also the Figure (a) below. For convenience, define  $C_0 := 1$ .



(a)



(b)

For any integer  $n \geq 2$ , consider the convex  $(n+2)$ -gon with vertices labeled with  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n+2}$ . Let  $P_n$  denote the number of possible ways to triangulate the polygon. It follows that  $P_2 = 2$ ,  $P_3 = 5$ , etc. For convenience, also define  $P_0 := 1$  and  $P_1 := 1$ .

1. Prove that for any  $n \geq 2$ ,  $P_n$  satisfies the recurrence

$$P_n = \sum_{0 \leq k < n} P_k \cdot P_{n-k-1}.$$

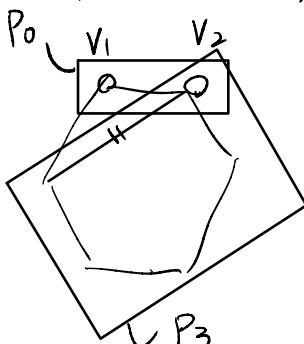
Consider polygon with vertex  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n+2}$ , we can split it by adding a diagonal to it. If we connect  $v_1$  to  $v_k$  to form a diagonal, then there are  $v_2 \sim v_{n+1}$ , which means  $n$  possible points to choose from.

By forming the diagonal, we try to find triangulation for  $(v_1 \sim v_k)$ -polygon and  $(v_k \sim v_{n+2})$ -polygon; we have  $(k-1+1)$  and  $(n+2-k+1)$  points respectively, so the number of ways to triangulate the two polygon is  $P_{k-2} \times P_{n-k+1}$ . By adding all possible values of  $k$ , we get  $\sum_{2 \leq k \leq n+2} P_{k-2} \times P_{n-k+1}$ , this is the number of ways to triangulate  $(n+2)$ -polygon.

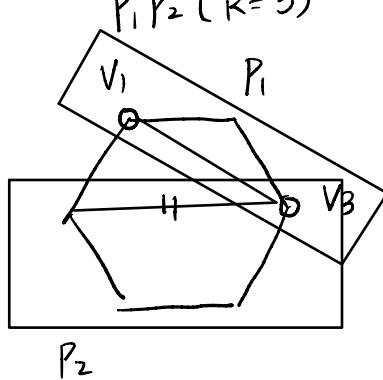
$$\sum_{2 \leq k \leq n+2} P_{k-2} \times P_{n-k+1} = \sum_{k'=k-2} P_{k'} \times P_{n-k'-1} = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} P_k \times P_{n-k-1} \quad \#.$$

Example:  $n=4 \Rightarrow P_4 = P_0 P_3 + P_1 P_2 + P_2 P_1 + P_3 P_0$

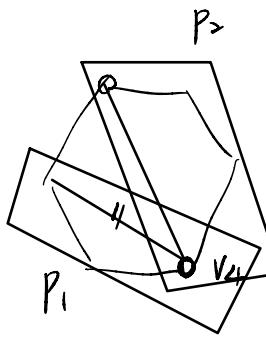
$P_0 P_3$  ( $k=2$ )



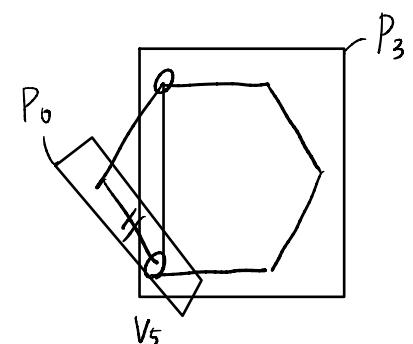
$P_1 P_2$  ( $k=3$ )



$P_2 P_1$  ( $k=4$ )



$P_3 P_0$  ( $k=5$ )

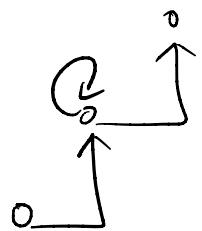
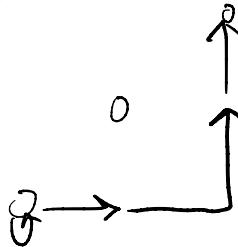


2. Prove that for any  $n \geq 2$ ,  $C_n$  satisfies the same recurrence

$$C_0 = C_1 = 1$$

$$C_n = \sum_{0 \leq k < n} C_k \cdot C_{n-k-1}$$

$$C_2 = C_0 C_1 + C_1 C_0$$



Let  $k$  be the smallest number that a path crosses  $(k, k)$ .

$$k=0$$

$$k=1$$

For any  $C_n$ , we can count all possible paths by considering  $k$ ,  $\forall k \in [0, n]$

The paths can be broken up into two parts:

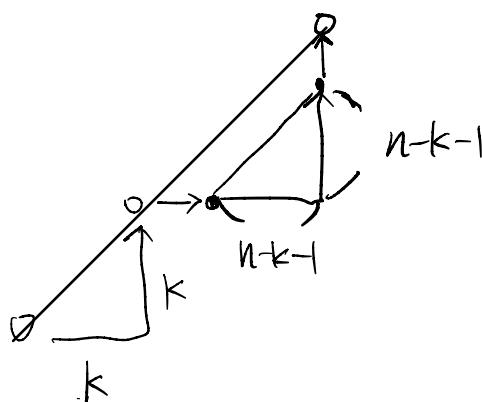
$$(1) (0,0) \rightarrow (k,k)$$

$$(2) (k,k) \rightarrow (k+1,k) \rightarrow (n,n-1) \rightarrow (n,n)$$

The second part is just the same as " $\rightarrow$ "  $\times$   $C_{n-k-1}$   $\times$  " $\uparrow$ "

And there are  $C_k \cdot C_{n-k-1}$  for each possible  $k$ .

$$\Rightarrow C_n = \sum_{0 \leq k < n} C_k \cdot C_{n-k-1} \quad \#$$



**Problem 4** (20%). Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of subsets, where

$$|A| \geq 3 \text{ for any } A \in \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \quad |A \cap B| = 1 \text{ for any } A, B \in \mathcal{F}, A \neq B.$$

Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is not 2-colorable. Let  $x, y$  be any elements that appear in  $\mathcal{F}$ , i.e.,  $x \in A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $y \in B \in \mathcal{F}$  for some  $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ . Prove that:

1.  $x$  belongs to at least two members of  $\mathcal{F}$ .
2. There exists some  $C \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $\{x, y\} \subseteq C$ .

*Hint:* Construct proper coloring to prove the properties. For (1), consider a particular  $A$  with  $x \in A \in \mathcal{F}$ . Color  $A \setminus \{x\}$  red and the remaining blue. Show that this leads to the conclusion of (1). For (2), consider particular  $A, B$  with  $x \in A \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $y \in B \in \mathcal{F}$ . Color  $(A \cup B) \setminus \{x, y\}$  red and the remaining blue. Prove that it leads to (2).

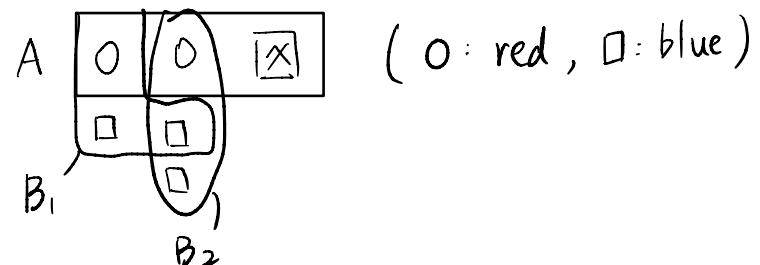
1. Color  $A \setminus \{x\}$  red and  $\{x\}$  blue.

Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is not 2-colorable, there must exist some  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $|B \cap A| = 1$ , otherwise  $A$  itself is 2-colorable and hence a contradiction. If no other  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  s.t.  $A \cap B = \{x\}$ , then we can always color  $\{x\}$  the remaining color in  $A$ , which makes  $\mathcal{F}$  2-colorable.

Therefore, there must be another  $B$

s.t.  $|A \cap B| = \{x\}$ , then  $x$  must

belong to at least 2 members.



2. Same reason as (1). We color  $A \cup B \setminus \{x, y\}$  red, and we can make  $\{x, y\}$  blue so that  $\mathcal{F}$  is still 2-colorable. ↗

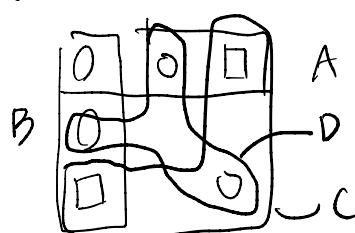
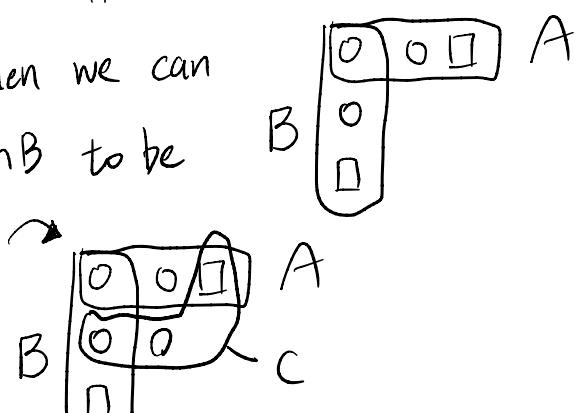
If we let  $x \in A$  to be in  $C$ , then we can choose the other red point  $\notin A \cap B$  to be

in  $C$  and make  $\mathcal{F}$  2-colorable.

So there must  $\exists C \in \mathcal{F}$

s.t.  $\{x, y\} \in C$ .

( $\Leftrightarrow$ )



\* D has to be there because of (1).

**Problem 5** (20%). Let  $G = (A \cup B, E)$  be a bipartite graph,  $d$  be the minimum degree of vertices in  $A$  and  $D$  the maximum degree of vertices in  $B$ . Assume that  $|A|d \geq |B|D$ .

Show that, for every subset  $A_0 \subseteq A$  with the density  $\alpha$  defined as  $\alpha := |A_0|/|A|$ , there exists a subset  $B_0 \subseteq B$  such that:

1.  $|B_0| \geq \alpha \cdot |B|/2$ ,
2. every vertex of  $B_0$  has at least  $\alpha D/2$  neighbors in  $A_0$ , and
3. at least half of the edges leaving  $A_0$  go to  $B_0$ .

*Hint:* Let  $B_0$  consist of all vertices in  $B$  that have at least  $\alpha D/2$  neighbors in  $A_0$ . First prove (3) and then (1).

$$\forall a \in A, \deg(a) \geq d ; \forall b \in B, \deg(b) \leq D$$

$$\Rightarrow |A|d \leq |B|D, \text{ and by assumption that } |A|d \geq |B|D$$

$\Rightarrow |A|d = |B|D$ , and hence it's the actual number of edges.  
because  $|A|d$  is the minimum number and  $|B|D$  is the maximum.

$$\Rightarrow \deg(a) = d; \deg(b) = D.$$

Let  $B_0$  consist of all vertices in  $B$  that have at least  $\frac{\alpha D}{2}$  neighbors in  $A_0$ , and  $x$  be the number of edges between  $A_0$  and  $(B - B_0)$

The number of edges from  $A_0$  to  $B$  is  $|A_0|d = |A|\alpha d$ .

$$\text{In (3), we can prove } x \leq \frac{|A|\alpha d}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \leq (|B| - |B_0|) \times \frac{\alpha D}{2} \quad (\text{vertex in } B_0 \text{ can have at most } \frac{\alpha D}{2}) \\ = \frac{\alpha |B|D}{2} - \frac{\alpha |B_0|D}{2} = \frac{\alpha |A|d}{2} - \frac{\alpha |B_0|D}{2} < \frac{|A|\alpha d}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \leq \frac{|A|\alpha d}{2}, \text{ hence proved (3)} \#$$

By (3), we know the number of edges between  $B_0$  and  $A_0$  is at least  $\frac{|A|\alpha d}{2}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{|A|\alpha d}{2} = \frac{|B|\alpha D}{2} \leq |B_0|D, \text{ because } B_0 \text{ can have neighbors in } (A - A_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow |B_0| \geq \frac{\alpha |B|}{2}$$